Title: Need to rationalize the fee structure and admission process in the private and self financing institutions engaged in providing higher education.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to some of the serious problems prevailing in the higher education, especially in the private and self-financing institutions. It is really related with the fee structure and also the admission policy. In February, 2005, a Conference of the Education Ministers was convened. Also, it was decided to bring a comprehensive legislation on this case. Before the TMA Pai case of Karnataka with regard to the admission of the students, the admission was done purely on merit basis. Following the case of Unnikrishnan vs. Andhra Pradesh case, even the private institution had recruited. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Have patience please.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : It was unfortunate to state that following the TMA Pai case, though it was referred to the minority issue, it was extended not only to the minorities but also to the private management. As a result, there were a number of agitations in different parts of the country. Also, some petitions have come in the High Court. As a result, the Supreme Court also formed a new five-member Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have made your point.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : On the basis of the Commission, new committees were formed in the States, but this Report was also questioned by the students, parents, teachers and even the management. So, a new Commission has come again, that is, the seven-member Commission of the Supreme Court.

The main issue is that there is a need for a comprehensive legislation on national basis. The UPA Government in the initial stage itself had promised that the Government would bring a comprehensive legislation in the Budget Session itself. There are only four days left. We know that it is not possible. So, if there is no such legislation for the next academic year also, there should be problems like strikes and also there will be cases filed in the court. So, I would like the Government to bring such a legislation before the beginning of the academic year itself. … (*Interruptions*)